

Paul's Ponderings

Another month has passed and as I look back at my calendar for November, I am reminded of many significant things that happened over the past 30 days. One of those was a visit to the Mosque of Mercy on Hunt Club Road that I participated in as part of the Mission Forward process. It was good to learn more about the Muslim faith community in our neighbourhood and the dreams that they have to meet the needs of the community. And we had a "Who is my Neighbour in Faith?" evening with a couple of participants in the Baha'i community. It is humbling to learn more about other paths of faith and to recognize the similar teachings and goals, although expressed in different symbols, stories and gatherings.

As December dawns, it is with humility that once more I enter in our holy story of Christmas and to find refreshing insights and from this familiar story of truth. May the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love enlighten these nights and days so that we may indeed celebrate that God is with us.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY DECEMBER 17th This year, we are again supporting the Evelyn Horne Young Women's Shelter and the Young Men's Shelter with gifts of socks, scarves, mitts, underwear, toiletry items, gift certificates for groceries, fast food, movies etc. Cheques can also be made out to the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa, indicating your preference. We also continue our support for the Heron Road Food Bank, Centre 507.

Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality The winter term of the Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality will run on Monday evenings from January 8th to March 8th. There is an opportunity to participate in two courses for the term for a \$75 registration. The programs are held at Dominican University College. One of the courses in the winter term is: Would you want Jesus as your Financial Advisor? which is being co-led by Paul Dillman and Brien Marshall. For more information, see www.osts.ca

Your Communications Committee would like feedback on our new monthly, electronic format newsletter. What is working well? How would you suggest we improve it? Please speak to or email your comments to Theresa White white.kimberwick@icloud.com or Clara Ballantine cjballantine16@gmail.com. Thank you for your help!



HERON EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE

HEFC continues to be extremely grateful for our ongoing contributions of non-perishable food and cash to support their program.

Thanks to Roger Ellsworth for faithfully delivering the contents of our yellow food bin every week. Please remember the bin in the narthex whenever you come to the church. This month's need is for **TEA BAGS and COFFEE**, two items the food bank does not purchase, but which the clients (particularly the seniors) really appreciate.

Gwen Bell, Board rep from Riverside United



Kudos to you!

To everyone who contributed to the success of the Bazaar: Thanks and congratulations. Whether you created items to sell, put up a poster, counted money, served lunch, brought items for attic treasures or other tables, brought family and friends, made purchases, moved tables and boxes, made beautiful music, worked at a specific area, or directed cars, it's our combined efforts that make our bazaar so successful! **Mini-Bazaar:** There will be a mini-Bazaar **after church on Dec 10th**. This is your golden opportunity to purchase baked goods, gourmet items and craft items from the bazaar.

CHOIR - Thank you to everyone who ate in our lunch room at the Bazaar, and also to those who took advantage of our sale of sandwiches and squares after church on the Sunday. We enjoy participating in this annual non musical venture, so we appreciate your supporting us. Our next event is the Lessons & Carols service on December 17th at 7pm, so please join us for a time of beautiful Advent and Christmas music.

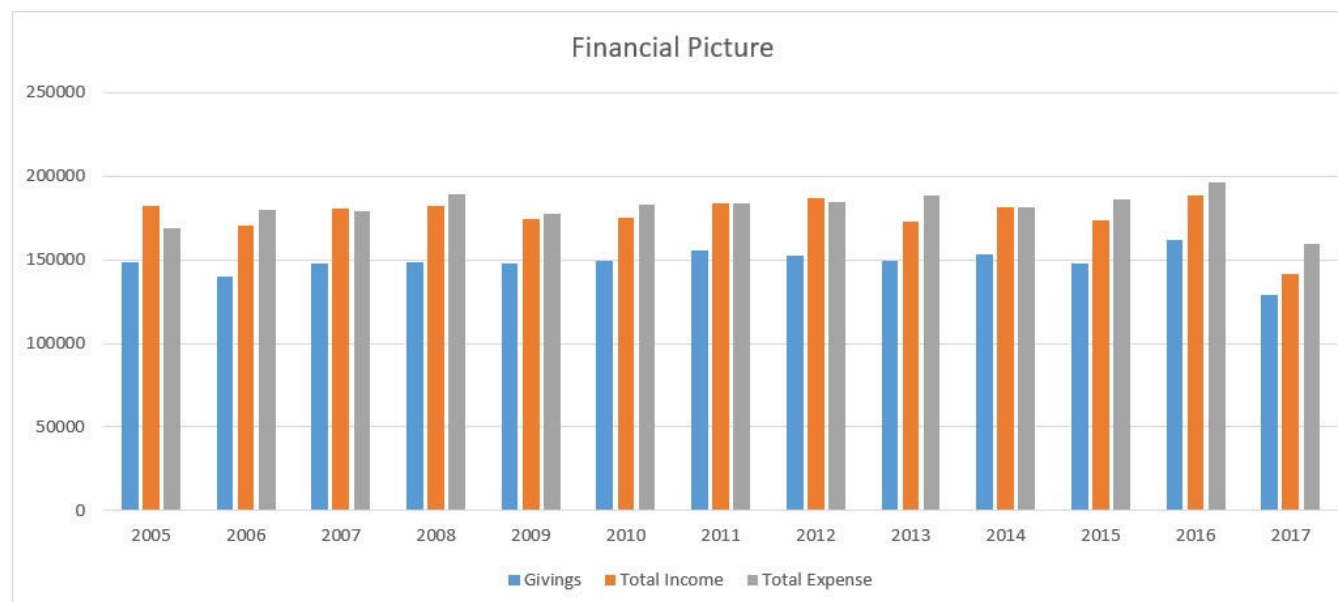
GIFT CARDS / GROCERY CARDS

Many thanks to our regular supporters of this unique fund raising project. The cards make great gifts that slip easily into a Christmas card or for White gift Sunday or to the Food bank.

We all have to eat.... so stock up for all that extra spending we all do in the grocery store over the holiday season.



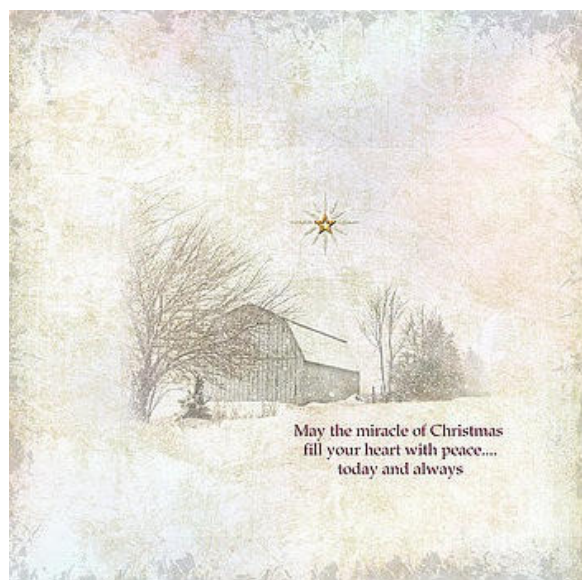
55th Anniversary Challenge: As we give thanks for the life of Riverside United, we are inviting folks to consider an anniversary gift to Riverside. Emerald is the traditional 55th anniversary gift, but we don't have a lot of need for emeralds. How about a gift that is a multiple of 55 - \$55, \$110, \$550, etc? We are projecting a deficit for 2017, so let's see how much we can raise!



This chart shows a comparison of givings, total income (includes fund raising) and total expenses for each year from 2005 to the end of October, 2017. Years 2005, 2007, 2011, 2012 and 2014 had a positive net income. Overall we had a weekly net income of -\$97. At a weekly level our average givings are \$2881 and our average expenses are \$3517. This is a shortfall of \$636. The viability report earlier this year came up with a number of 150 identifiable regular givers. An **increase of \$4 to weekly** givings by these 150 givers would overcome this shortfall.

Calendar of Events - December 2017

Date	Event	Details
Dec 2 nd	4:00 pm Messy Church	An alternative experience of worship includes music, story, crafts & supper
Dec 3 rd	11:00 am Regular Worship	1 st Sunday of Advent - Communion
		following the service - Faith Conversation
Dec. 9 th	9:00 am – Noon	Amnesty Write-A-Thon Write for Rights
Dec 10 th	11:00 am Regular Worship	2 nd Sunday of Advent
		Mini Bazaar after service
Dec 11 th	7:00 p.m. Pondering at the Pub	Moose McGuire's Topic " <i>Questions About the Christmas Story</i> "
Dec 16 th	8:30 to Noon Book Nook Sale	Every Stocking Deserves a Book
Dec 17 th	11:00 am Regular Worship	3 rd Sunday of Advent
	7:00 p.m.	Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec 20 th	7:00 p.m. (Wednesday evening)	Quiet Christmas Service
Dec 24 th	11:00 am Regular Worship	4 th Sunday of Advent
	5:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service
	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion Service
Dec 31 st	11:00 am	Cluster Service RUC Hosting
Jan 21 st	Reverse Offering (slips given out)	For Centre 507
Jan 28 th	Reverse Offering (donations received)	For Centre 507



Late additions:

The Bazaar to date has made \$7840.00 – there is the mini Bazaar after service on Sunday December 10th.

Amnesty International: Saturday December 9 is our day at RUC to participate in the annual Write-for-Rights campaign. 9 cases are currently available. Come, bring a pen, a stamp and a friend. Lots of help available.

Recent cases: China (the forced return of North Korean nationals to North Korea where they are at risk of persecution or other serious human rights violations, such as arbitrary detention, torture or other ill-treatment and possibly execution.); Argentina (Santiago Maldonado, a 28-year-old community activist and human rights worker, captured in August did not survive his capture); USA (Mexican national Ruben Cardenas Ramirez executed despite protests from international law organizations)

Pat & Norm Mcleod